

National Health Information Infrastructure 2003

Developing a National Action Agenda for NHII

June 30 – July 2, 2003
Washington, DC



National Health Information Infrastructure 2003 (NHII 03)

- Secretary announced:
 - SNOMED
 - IOM/HL7 and electronic health record
 - Quarterly status reports
- Over 500 attendees at conference
- Conference format: eight tracks



NHII 03 Conference Format

Eight Tracks

1. Privacy and Confidentiality
2. Architecture
3. Standards and Vocabulary
4. Safety and Quality
5. Financial Incentives
6. Consumer Health
7. Homeland Security
8. Research and Population Health



NHII 03 Recommendations

Privacy & Confidentiality

- Establish permanent independent entity to oversee/advise NHII
- Establish an ethical, legal, and social issues (ELSI) program, similar to one in the Human Genome project, to address these issues within the context of a NHII.
- Educate public about HIPAA and NHII
- Evaluate existing infrastructure projects to determine degree of public confidence in potential NHII



NHII 03 Recommendations

Architecture

- NHII Task Force (like IETF)
- Architectural roadmap
- Regional steering committees
- Non-proprietary, standards based
- Interoperable security
- Specify a communications protocol
- Proceed without national identifier
- Fund demonstration projects
- Label data at the source



NHII 03 Recommendations

Standards & Vocabulary

- **Current problem: standards are not self improving & standard messages and vocabulary not aligned**
- **HHS creates a process to update and enhance standards**
- **Align message formats & vocabulary standards**
- **Accelerate adoption of NCVHS & CHI recommended standards**
- **CMS: create financial incentives for providers to use standards**
- **Certify standards & vocabulary implementations**



NHII 03 Recommendations

Safety and Quality

- **Cost driven \Rightarrow quality driven system**
- **Standards for national quality and safety performance measures (AHRQ funding)**
- **Redirect research funding (\$1 billion) to research quality & safety & IT**
- **Fed. Govt: National Quality Database**
- **Integrated DSS & performance metrics built into information systems**
- **Need laws for safety/quality reporting**
- **Clinical informatics training (HHS funding)**
- **Improve AE detection/reporting**
- **Exchange stnds. for DSS \Rightarrow shared repository**



NHII 03 Recommendations

Financial Incentives

- **Federal funding for:**
 - Standards
 - 40-50 new demonstrations
 - Public-private financing vehicle for IT
- **Investments for Local HIs**
- **Payer reimbursement incentives**
- **Remove legal barriers to investment**
- **Educate health professionals and consumers**



NHII 03 Recommendations

Consumer Health

- People are the center of U.S. “virtual health system”
- Data elements relevant to consumers
- Consumer representative on NCVHS
- Improve consumer health literacy
- Trustworthy health & disease inform.
- NLM & private sector should improve information access (search tools, linkage)
- AHRQ involve consumers in patient safety
- Progress measures for pers. health record
- Decision support for consumers (alerts/reminders)



NHII 03 Recommendations

Homeland Security (HS)

- Goal: collaboration among federal, local, state and private agencies using coordinated platforms that are interoperable, secure and accessible
- Establish Info. Technology Clearinghouse for transferable, scalable technologies
- Require all govt. agencies participate in NHII; align CDC's PHIN with NHII
- State & local demonstration projects
- All HS funding agencies in unified framework for standards



NHII 03 Recommendations

Research & Population Health

- Goal: Multiple purpose data use; standardized research & pop. health data
- Establish standard set of patient characteristic linker variables
- National registry of data definitions, datasets, metadata for research and population health
- Incentives for data providers to conform to NHII standards & to provide data for research and population health
- Ensure feedback loop from researchers to public to improve personal health decisions

